



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Newsletter of the
Southwest Region
October, 2012



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter.

Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a text file or, if generated in a word processor, saved in .RTF format).

Images must be in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 by 900 pixels.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

1. The article's author,
2. Photographer, and
3. Any person mentioned in the article.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

News Highlights From Around the Region

In the third quarter of 2012, SWR continued to advise and support its member wings in the accomplishment of their mission. Texas Wing conducted LESA training and won the National Drill Team competition. Wings conducted hurricane and ES missions. Extensive training took place across the region. Exercise Javelina Thunder was a success.

To avoid errors or omissions, I've asked each wing PAO to send in a summary of notable events. They are posted below in the order in which they were received, with my thanks.

Arizona Wing had a two-day Aerospace Education event at Embry-Riddle University, International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) visits, and missing-person and downed-aircraft searches conducted by the ES teams. Cadets polished their skills and made new friends at this summer's encampment. The Wing conference in June offered training for wing members and the chance to honor outstanding member accomplishments for 2012. The Wing also helped Honor Flight fulfill the wish of a local WWII veteran who wanted to visit the WWII monument in Washington, DC.

New Mexico Wing flew patrols over the state's major lakes for the July 4 and Labor Day holidays, and supported the Falcon Virgo exercise. Training included hosting the Southwest Region Staff College, a UCC, a glider encampment, and IACE cadets. The wing's Lt. Col. Donna Bracken was named DDR Officer of the year at the National Conference, and the Wing received the SWR Disaster Response Award. Wing Commander Col Mark Smith led a CAP delegation at the pinning ceremony for the state's new National Guard Adjutant General.

Oklahoma Wing's Broken Arrow Composite Squadron welcomed a new commander. In July, as a drug demand reduction activity, the new Jenks Flight enjoyed a class presented by a pioneer from the front lines of the war on drugs. In addition, August brought the first practice SAREVAL at the recently revived Muskogee Nighthawks Squadron building and Davis Field Airport. In September, Oklahoma Wing graduated 14 students from FEMA ICS-300 training in Norman.

Louisiana Wing responded to requests from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

Preparedness (GOHSEP) for aerial imaging in the wake of Hurricane Isaac, flying 61 sorties (103 flight hours) over 10 days, taking 1,943 aerial photos. Other events included model rocket launches and a UDF Team demonstration at the Louisiana Balloon Festival in Gonzales, robotics and model rocket demonstrations at the NAS New Orleans Summer Blitz, and an AE resource presentation at the Sally Ride Science Festival held for young girls at the LSU campus.

Texas Wing purchased an armory on 4.9 acres on the A.L. Mangham Regional Airport in Nacogdoches for its HQ and training center. Cadet summer encampment, powered and glider academies, and the Sheldon Cadet Squadron win of the National Drill Team Competition complemented the Wing's AE, Cadet Programs, ES and CD/HLS national awards. The 11-week Operation Javelina Thunder II was praised by outside agencies. LESA ran well with cross-Wing collaboration. In August, aircraft flew 1038 hours, exceeding normal average. TXWG's membership totals are 101.79% of FY11.

Arkansas Wing's Basic Encampment ran Aug. 3-11 at Little Rock AFB, with approximately 85 cadets and 20 senior members participating in the event. Wing aircrews and ground teams took part in SAREXs throughout the summer, and in August several aircrews flew in the annual Falcon Virgo exercise in El Paso, Texas. The 2012 Little Rock AFB Air Show, Sept. 8-9, drew Wing members who manned recruiting and Aerospace Education booths while enjoying performances by the Blue Angels and the base's own C-130 aircraft.

To everyone, our congratulations. 🇺🇸

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Safety is Priority One

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

▪ ***Which Articles Are Best?***

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

▪ ***Do I Submit Photos?***

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

▪ ***If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions***

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Members of the SWR drill team, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elizabeth Sanchez, Cadet 2nd Lt. Monica Salazar, Cadet 2nd Lt. Arianna Gonzalez, Cadet 2nd Lt. Chrisabel Rocha, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Morgan Fletcher, Cadet Master Sgt. Anthony Galeano, Cadet Capt. Daiquon Lucas, Cadet 2nd Lt. Christian Pena, Cadet Tech Sgt. Darion McClinton, Cadet Maj. Joshua Phillips, Cadet 2nd Lt. Marcus Johnson, Cadet Capt. Tristan Edwards, Cadet 2nd Lt. Lewis Yarbrough, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Jorge Galvan

Bottom: (L-R) Cadet 2nd Lt. Christian Pena, Cadet 2nd Lt. Monica Salazar, Cadet 2nd Lt. Chrisabel Rocha, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Arianna Gonzalez stand In-Ranks Inspection. (Photos: 1st Lt. Amber Manfredini)

Texas Wing Drill Team Earns National Honors

by 1st Lt. Amber Manfredi, CAP, Texas Wing

DAYTON, Ohio – On June 20, 2012, the Texas Wing Drill Team returned to the National Cadet Competition with one goal in mind: a championship for Texas Wing. For the third time in four years, the Texas Wing Drill Team was representing Southwest Region at the highest level of drill team competition for Civil Air Patrol cadets. The 2012 National Cadet Competition returned to Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.





Top: (L-R) Cadet Maj. Joshua Phillips, Cadet 2nd Lt. Christian Pena, Cadet 2nd Lt. Monica Salazar, Cadet 2nd Lt. Chrisabel Rocha, Cadet 2nd Lt. Arianna Gonzalez, Cadet Capt. Daiquon Lucas, Cadet Master Sgt. Anthony Galeano, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elizabeth Sanchez, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Morgan Fletcher, Cadet 2nd Lt. Marcus Johnson, Cadet Capt. Tristan Edwards, Cadet 2nd Lt. Lewis Yarbrough, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Jorge Galvan conclude their Standard Drill Routine at the National Cadet Competition.

Below: SWR Drill Team Commander Cadet Maj. Joshua Phillips completes his written exam.

Expectations ran high for the members of Houston's Sheldon Cadet Squadron. Although in 2011 they had finished in a middle-of-the-field fourth place overall, the team was determined to do better.

The competition began with the USAF Honor Guard conducting in-ranks inspection. Teams stood at attention for nearly 30 minutes, as the Air Force graders scrutinized every detail of their uniform. For the next event, teams reported for the hour-long written exam. Team members had to complete a 100-question exam covering leadership, aerospace, CAP general knowledge, and aerospace-related current events.





n, October, 2012

Left: Cadet Capt. Tristan Edwards spikes a volleyball down onto an opponent as team mate Cadet Capt. Daiquon Lucas is at the ready during the Volleyball tournament.

Below: Cadet Capt. Daiquon Lucas, followed by Cadet Tech Sgt. Darion McClinton, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Lewis Yarbrough dig deep to complete the Mile Run.

Participating cadets then finished the academic requirements with the panel quiz. Teams divided into groups of four and faced off in a round-robin tournament that tested their speed and accuracy at answering knowledge

questions. The SWR Drill Team improved from their previous performance, as they finished with six wins and one loss.

The second day of competition included standard drill, innovative drill, and volleyball. Drill Teams started the day with an event designed to test their ability to perform movements found in the Air Force Drill and Ceremonies Manual. Next on the schedule was the highlight of the competition: Innovative Drill. A crowd of over 300 spectators cheered and applauded as each team went through the routines they had prepared and rehearsed in the course of the previous year.

The day came to an end as teams regrouped to test themselves on the volleyball court. Once again, the SWR Drill Team improved from the previous year's performance as they finished the evening with a 4-2 record.

The final event for the competition was the mile run. The SWR Drill Team had trained at the school track in Houston and they felt ready for excellence. Nine male cadets finished their run in under 6 minutes, and four females finished it in under 8 minutes. When the final totals came in, the SWR Drill Team had achieved an overall average of 5:52, for a clear lead.

With the competition over but the results not yet announced, National Cadet Competition participants turned their attention to the evening's awards banquet. The SWR Drill Team came in with a 1st place finish in Innovative Drill, Panel Quiz, and Mile Run. The team also garnered 2nd place honors for In-Ranks Inspection.

For the first time since 1975, Texas Wing had a drill team bring home the 1st place National Drill Team Competition trophy and streamer.

Note: The Sheldon Independent School District, in Houston, sponsored the creation of the Sheldon Cadet Squadron at the C.E. King Middle School, that opened in 1954. As the ISD grew, the Michael R. Null Middle School opened in 2009, with students accepted into the Sheldon Cadet Squadron. As the Sheldon Cadet Squadron itself grew, on July 1, 2012, the East Houston Cadet Squadron was chartered, separating the Michael R. Null Middle School from the C.E. King Middle School. These squadrons will now enter competition separately. Both squadrons have cadets older than middle school age. 🇺🇸



Oklahoman is CAP's National Senior Member of the Year – 2011

by 1st Lt. Phyl Howard, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TINKER AFB, Okla. – Col. Virginia Keller, Oklahoma Wing's Vice Commander, received the prestigious Civil Air Patrol National Senior Member of the Year Award for 2011. Presentation of the award certificate was made on Aug. 25, 2012 at the Civil Air Patrol National Board and Annual Conference in Baltimore.

Col. Keller had previously received the award for the Oklahoma Wing Senior Member of the Year and advanced to Southwest Region, where she competed with other candidates from Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas. Having won the Southwest Region Senior Member Award, her name was forwarded to Civil Air Patrol Headquarters for consideration. From the eight regions, Col. Keller was selected by the Civil Air Patrol for the 2011 National Senior Member of the Year Award.

Col. Keller joined Civil Air Patrol as a CAP Aerospace Education (AE) member so that she could fly on a C-130 to the Smithsonian Aerospace Museum in Washington, D.C. Col Keller remained an AE member until she joined the Stillwater Squadron in 1988, serving as the Personnel and Administrative Officer. She became the Squadron Commander and Oklahoma Wing Public Affairs Officer, serving concurrently in these positions for six years.

Right: CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Charles L. Carr, Jr., Col. Virginia Keller, and Executive Director Don Rowland at the presentation of Keller's plaque and certificate. (Photo: CAP NHQ/PA)

Col. Keller served as Oklahoma Wing Commander from April 1999 to April 2005, and since then has served as Vice Commander of Oklahoma Wing.

Col. Keller is the highest ranking female in Oklahoma Wing, Civil Air Patrol. 🇺🇸





Top: After Capt. Cindy Beck (right) mentored Cadet Courtney Deinzer, she is interviewed by TV news reporters.

An Interview with the National PAO of the Year – 2011

by Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Courtney Deinzer, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On June 30, 2012, at the Arizona Wing conference, Capt. Cindy Beck, the National Public Affairs Officer of the Year – 2011, was available for an interview. Known by all, she is responsible for advancing public affairs in the wing, having mentored many wing members on public affairs, especially cadets.

Prior to joining Civil Air Patrol in 2006, Capt. Beck had no formal training in public affairs. However, she has made the journey from squadron PAO to National PAO of the Year. Capt. Beck has been the Arizona Wing PAO since May, 2010, and has had the opportunity to help PAOs and aspiring PAOs – including cadets – during those years. Her career with Civil Air Patrol started at Squadron 314, where she received her first CAP achievement award as Public Affairs Officer.

Time and again she has heard CAP members say that it is hard to find a topic to write about. Her answer is always the same, “You always have a story to write about. I like to tell about pilots and their accomplishments, Emergency Services, or about everyday contributions that CAP members make.”

Which is the most exciting story she has ever covered? Capt. Beck is quick to answer, “That was, when they were searching for the missing man from California, being able to see the ARCHER GA-8 aircraft from New Mexico and having a chance to speak with the aircrew.”

What advice could she give CAP members, either senior members or cadets, on how to become a successful PAO? Her reply is clear and to the point, “Ask everyone to share his or her experiences about Civil Air Patrol. Although it is the public affairs officers' job to inform the public about Civil Air Patrol, the stories must come from the real-life experience of all cadets and senior members.”

In closing, Capt. Beck said, “I have been honored to be the Arizona Wing public affairs officer. I am amazed at our volunteers' dedication and the efforts they make. I know in my heart that having the opportunity to write about our volunteers, and their outstanding work, is the reason I received national recognition.”

Capt. Beck's example and mentoring has helped many cadets and senior members in their journey as PAOs. 🇺🇸



Top: The 27 cadets that attended the Southwest Region's National Flight Academy, at Shawnee, Okla.

Below: An instructor pilot with flight students during pre-flight aircraft inspection. (All photos: 1st Lt. Phyl Howard)

Southwest Region's National Flight Academy

by 1st Lt. Phyl Howard, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

SHAWNEE, Okla. – On July 6-16, 2012, twenty-seven Civil Air Patrol cadets ranging in age from 16 to 18 years old and coming from 12 different states, thirteen 4-seat aircraft including twelve Cessna 172s and one Cessna 182, fifteen FAA-Certified Flight Instructors and other staff members converged on the Shawnee Regional Airport for the Southwest Region's National Flight Academy hosted by Oklahoma Wing. Every summer, several NFAs take place around the nation, each in a different one of the eight CAP regions.



During an interview before the event, Lt. Col. Ed Angala, the Activity Director for the SWR NFA, said, "This is an outstanding class of cadets and we are expecting great things from them in the aviation field." The training aircraft flew from the Shawnee Regional Airport to surrounding airports in Oklahoma. Cadets and staff lived and studied at near-by St. Gregory's University, where ground school training was conducted.



Top: After having completed her solo flight, Flight Instructor Capt. Charles Ewes cuts off Cadet Capt. Valerie Powell shirt-tail – a traditional ritual for buddying pilots. In the background, Activity Director Lt. Col. Ed Angala looks on.

Aspiring cadet pilots receive 25 hours of Private Pilot Ground instruction and 10 hours of flight time in a Cessna 4-seat airplane with one of the FAA Certified Flight Instructors on staff (who are also CAP members). On average, about 50% of all Academy students progress to the point where they can be considered ready for their solo flight.

For every instructional flight, two cadets fly with one instructor (a grouping assigned at the beginning of the course), with one cadet sitting at the controls in a front seat next to the flight instructor (who does the teaching) and the other cadet observing from a back seat. Because of the training's intensity, cadets switch roles frequently, experiencing a learning environment specially designed for CAP cadets. The low ratio of one instructor pilot to two students ensures that there will be plenty of time for individual instruction.

The schedule is rigorous. Up at 5:15 a.m., breakfast at 6:00, and the safety meeting after that, followed by the cadets rushing into the vans for the drive to the airport for pre-flight aircraft inspections. By 7:30, taking advantage of the cooler part of the day, they are up in the air. The front seat student and the back seat observer switch places as determined by the flight instructor. After the morning flights, students have a picnic lunch on the tarmac, then load up in the vans and head back to St. Gregory's for ground school, an activity that lasts for most of the afternoon. Students learn about aerodynamics, flight navigation, Federal Aviation Administration regulations and much more.

Dinner follows ground school, with the evening set aside for study and/or relaxation. Most students devote much time to studying, and some find it difficult to strike a balance between studying and relaxing. Many set aside some time for running or playing racquetball with the other students who have come from all around the USA. Lights out comes at 10 p.m. and no one has a problem falling asleep.

In the end, only twelve cadets soloed, and Cadet Capt. Valerie Powell was among them. Her story closely parallels that of many Civil Air Patrol cadets, "When I was 10 years old I became interested in flying, and at 12 a family friend took me up in his small airplane. It was an amazing experience, and I was forever hooked on flying. I joined Civil Air Patrol because I wanted to learn

how to fly, and I've had my eyes set on going to National Flight Academy ever since. Now I'm here."

Cadet Powell, in describing her experience at the academy, said, "Besides flight skills, I learned perseverance while at NFA. I have always done well in school, but discovered that NFA required me to learn *how* to study, and learning how to fly is not the same as learning how to spell. I had to learn how to apply the ground school instruction to real-life flight. I had to learn about the mechanics of a plane as well. I also found out that it is difficult for me to learn early in the morning, since I am not a morning person, yet that is when our flight time was. I also learned that to learn well I need sleep."

How did Cadet Powell overcome her difficulties? "What helped me study was doing "chair flights," that is nothing more than simulated flying, and for that all you need is your imagination and a chair (sometimes having a flight buddy with you makes it more interesting). "Chair flight" is pretending that you are in the airplane, and you go through each step of flying in your mind. You talk your way through the routine and practice each movement required to accomplish each step of flight. Your flight buddy might give you scenarios of challenging situations that you have to overcome. You have to think quickly, and come up with the right responses."

Which was the greatest thrill she experienced at NFA? Her answer is not surprising. "The solo flight was by far my favorite part of NFA. I took off very quickly, faster than I ever thought I would, because there was very little weight on the plane, just me: no flight instructor or flight buddy. It is difficult to put into words what it feels like to fly all by yourself for the first time. It is immensely exciting. Being in the air I felt free. I felt like I could soar forever. I felt confident, as I knew that I was well prepared thanks to my instructor."

Did Cadet Powell feel at all uneasy, all alone up in the air? "When I did my solo flight I was not scared at all, I was calm. It was such a rewarding experience, after years of anticipation of what it would be like to learn how to fly. I was there in mid-air, actually flying the airplane all by myself. It was hard to come back down to earth; I wanted to stay in the air as long as possible, but I knew I had to land eventually. The entire experience built my character. I made new friends and new memories. I lived my dream."

The Shawnee Composite Squadron provided staff support for this event. 🇺🇸

Below: Another ritual is dousing the returning solo pilot, that is enjoyable in the heat of a summer Oklahoma day.





Top: Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford (center, standing) during the pre-event announcements (*Photos: Capt. John Wigginton*)

Louisiana Wing Assists Navy in Launching Students into the 21st Century

by Capt. John C. Wigginton, III, CAP, Louisiana Wing

NEW ORLEANS – On July 23-26, 2012, Joint Reserve Base New Orleans–Naval Air Station held a Summer Blitz challenge for the K-12 students who live and go to school on the base by introducing them to the Navy Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as well as the Science, Service, Medicine and Mentoring (S2M2) Programs. The children experienced real-life applications of mathematics and science principles through hands-on practical learning, guided by highly skilled volunteer mentors.

Members of the U.S. Navy, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard, and Civil Air Patrol, as well as Morale, Welfare and Recreation personnel and volunteers from families that live or work on the base participated in the special event. The base-wide program presented various age-appropriate programs at different locations. All activities helped increase student interest in school, mathematics, science, engineering, problem-solving, setting and achieving positive goals, and teamwork.

U.S. Navy Lt. Arthur Castro (who is a member of the Louisiana Wing's Alvin Callender Composite Squadron) played a major Navy role in the STEM Program in his capacity of Navy Flight Line Static Display Coordinator. He guided the children through a tour of four different types



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of aircraft, and an emergency services exhibit held in conjunction with the base fire department and ambulance services. Castro explained the use of STEM through examples of different careers and settings, depending on the various aircraft, stressing the importance of safe, quality and by-the-book aircraft maintenance. Castro said, "The event went very well as planned, and there were plenty of smiles on all the children's faces."

The Alvin Callender Composite Squadron (located on the base) and Pontchartrain Composite Squadron (Harahan, La.) supported the Summer Blitz Day on Thursday, with exhibits and presentations on Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, Drug Demand Reduction, Emergency Services, Search and Rescue, and the new CAP Robotics Program.

Above: CAP Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford and Navy Cdr. Woods. **Below:** Navy Cdr. Woods and Lt. Col. Beauford



CAP's Louisiana Wing Director of Robotics, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, was the guest speaker to kick off the FIRST Robotics and the Lego Robotics Competition. Using the CAP robot as an example, Beauford explained the basics of robotics, programming and controlling the robots, thus giving parents and children a better idea of the technical, engineering, mathematical and computing challenges that the competing teams must face and overcome. Beauford said, "I was most impressed with the children's eagerness to learn and their outstanding good behavior."

Lt. Col. Beauford had brought along a scale model of a Cessna 182 in CAP paint scheme. It was a major hit with the children when they learned that they could fly in a real aircraft like it upon becoming CAP members. Besides the robot, Beauford had books and booklets on aerospace and astronomy, as well as NASA bookmarks for the children to see.



Left: Capt. John Wigginton, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, Navy Lt. Cdr. Tollard and Navy Lt. Campbell

Medicine and Health was a major topic under the S2M2 portion of the event, and had multiple training opportunities for parents and children. There were daily issues, such as diet, obesity, sleep, exercise, health disparities, first responder basics, research, brochures and presentations. Then the students learned about medical equipment and tools such as laparoscopic drills, and even saw images of how eyeballs

could be dissected.

With Medicine and Health a serious topic, CAP's Pontchartrain Composite Squadron exhibit on the Drug Demand Reduction Program – designed to prevent drug abuse – was popular. Students and parents had available a wealth of information on the dangers of drug abuse, diversion, detection and prevention of alcohol, drugs (both prescription and illegal), and tobacco use. CAP handed out DDR backpacks which everyone could fill with DDR bookmarks, pens, pamphlets on the most abused drugs, booklets, and posters for teens, parents, and educators.

CAP also handed out recruiting brochures, copies of the latest issue of the bi-monthly CAP Volunteer Magazine and other assorted CAP information. Louisiana Wing members were honored to have had the opportunity to serve in the STEM/S2M2 Program on the first year of the event at this Navy installation, and watch the children have fun while learning.

The base STEM/S2M2 Program Coordinator, U.S. Navy Lt. Lori Campbell, said, "I am very impressed with the large exhibit and amount and quality of the handouts we gave to the families." Campbell extended an invitation to Louisiana Wing to participate again each year that the New Orleans Base holds the STEM/S2M2 Program.

The event ended with a cookout and lunch on the lawn, with the Navy Band providing the music. After lunch, there was an awards and presentations ceremony at the school gym. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Upon their arrival in Arizona, the U.K. chaperone, two Canadian IACE cadets (red shirts), and the two U.K. cadets get ready for their visit. (Photos submitted by 2nd Lt. Kevin Deinzer)

IACE Cadets Visit Arizona

Compiled by Capt. Cindy Beck, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – The International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program, an eighteen-country international alliance of organizations similar to CAP, brings together international cadets to build aviation knowledge and cultural understanding. During the period July 20-30, 2012, Arizona Wing members met cadets from Canada and the United Kingdom and had the opportunity to help them acquire memories that they might keep forever.

Following are excerpts from letters written by visiting U.K. Cadet Justyna Pleszynowicz and Canadian Dadet James Pearson, giving insight into the excitement, wonder, sharing, joy and sheer fun they experienced during their trip to Arizona Wing.

In the words of Cadet Justyna Pleszynowicz, U.K.

I had an absolutely fantastic time in Arizona! I had a great time in Phoenix, all the staff and cadets were very friendly and made us feel welcome. We were very busy the whole time, although it was tiring and we didn't get much sleep, it was definitely worth it.



, 2012

We had no chance of getting bored, and we made the most out of the little time we had. I particularly enjoyed the shooting as in the U.K., I would never get the chance to do most of what we did; the laws at home are much stricter. I also really enjoyed the Grand Canyon visit as well as flying and the water park. It was really nice to see that all the cadets and staff wanted to get involved in our visit.

Tucson was also really good, on the first day I got to fly an F16 simulator which I thought was brilliant. We also went to a few museums as well as visiting Tombstone which was really interesting.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff and cadets for all the hard work they put into providing us with such a great experience.

Left: IACE cadets are ready for dinner at the Horny Toad restaurant.

Below: A hot air balloon launch was an unexpected treat.

***In the words of Cadet
James Pearson, Canada***

It was a privilege to be selected for Arizona as my International Exchange destination. I loved the activities, the unfamiliar landscape and, most of all, the people. Having opportunities to meet new people is what makes everything worthwhile, because even doing the most fun things by yourself is not the same as being with others. Meeting the cadets, tour guides, and officers helps the experience become unforgettable.



What I really enjoyed was meeting new people every step of the way. Every activity we did, there would be friendly new faces waiting to meet us. Everyone was trying to help make our time unforgettable; the best it could be. Which it was, and I was humbled by the constant generosity of the Civil Air Patrol of Arizona. There was never a time when I felt unwanted, not looked after, or out of things to do. It was like we were around family. Although the dust storm was my personal favourite, as I love anything meteorological, the Grand Canyon was the most fascinating planned activity. The Civil Air Patrol cadets were outgoing and made me feel welcome throughout the trip.

I was also blown away by the copious weaponry available in Arizona. From never shooting a firearm to blowing a target paper to bits with a shotgun, it was a memorable experience that I would not be able to have in Canada, or in numerous other countries around the world. We were kept thoroughly busy during the Tucson portion of our trip as well, with interesting journeys to Tombstone, the Titan Missile Museum, Pima Air Museum, and the Sonoran desert museum.

I loved seeing the wildlife of Arizona in the museum, because it is so foreign to what I am used to where I live. We were fortunate enough that one of our Tucson escorts has a daughter who works there, and allowed us into an area with even more desert animals that we wouldn't normally get to see.

The group of Civil Air Patrol cadets and officers we met in Tucson were just as warm and welcoming as the group in Phoenix. They were very knowledgeable of the area and told us numerous stories. I was very happy when one of my Tucson escort officers brought me cooked cactus to try because I had really wanted to eat cactus but couldn't find anywhere to try it. I was not disappointed with the meal.

I truly believe Arizona did an outstanding job hosting for the International Air Cadet Exchange, and I am thoroughly grateful of the efforts made. I hope Arizona wing continues hosting in the future to create more unforgettable life experiences for other cadets. 🇬🇧

Below: IACE cadets from the U.K. get ready for target practice at the Ben Avery shooting range.





Top: Cadets and senior members from five different squadrons stand formation in honor of the visiting IACE cadets. Representing New Mexico Wing were Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, Eagle Cadet Squadron, Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron, LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron and Santa Fe Composite Squadron. (All photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel)

New Mexico Wing Hosts IACE Cadets

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Two cadets from Canada, two cadets from Belgium and their Belgian escort were honored by New Mexico Wing in a ceremony that included the Eagle Cadet Squadron, Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron, LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, Santa Fe Composite Squadron and the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, at the latter's July 26, 2012 meeting.

The Canadian and Belgian cadets were participants in the 2012 International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE), an activity held by Civil Air Patrol and 11 other countries worldwide. CAP cadets stay at the homes of families of air cadets in other countries, while cadets visiting the U.S. stay with CAP families in the United States. The 2012 exchange ran from July 14 to Aug. 1, 2012.

The visiting cadets toured points of interest in New Mexico, interacted with CAP cadets, and got to know their U.S. counterparts. They compared the American cadet program with what they do at their home country, and found that there are more similarities than differences. The purpose of IACE is to promote the sharing of experiences among cadets from the member nations, as well as generate good will and understanding between the participating countries.

IACE is open to all CAP cadets who are at least 17 years old and have achieved Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award.



Top: United States Air Force Academy Cadet Third Class Haley E. Barela, former Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron cadet commander, talks about her life at the Academy.

Below: New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith presents Canadian cadet Adam Labranche with a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of his visit to New Mexico.

After an opening formation of the combined five squadrons, New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith addressed nearly 100 attendees, including friends and families of CAP members present. The international cadets were treated to an in-ranks inspection and drill demonstration by the CAP cadets.

U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Third Class Haley E. Barela, former cadet commander of the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, gave a presentation on her first year at the Academy.

Col. Smith and Capt. Michael E. Eckert, Albuquerque Heights squadron commander, presented the international cadets with Certificates of Appreciation and squadron challenge coins in honor of their stay in New Mexico. 🇺🇸





Top: CAP 1st Lt. Sarah Rovner shakes hands with her soaring instructor, CAP Lt. Col. Eston Hupp (*Photo: Unknown photographer*)

Texas Wing Pilot Lands Without an Engine – Again

by 1st Lt. Audrey Morrow, CAP, Texas Wing

HOUSTON – On Sept. 14, 2012, CAP 1st Lt. Sarah Rovner landed dead-stick again, but this time it was a glider. She had made national headlines in January, 2012, when her CAP Cessna experienced engine failure and she successfully landed it, at night, on a city street in Conroe, Texas. With no other choice available, CAP flight training kicked in and she handled the emergency without injury. Perhaps it was this event what sparked her curiosity about flying an aircraft without an engine.



Top: Under tow, a view of the fields from the glider's front seat. (Photo: 1st Lt. Sarah Rovner)

Whatever the stimulus, Rovner decided to try her wings at soaring, so she took advantage of the Texas Wing introductory flight program. These flights are designed to familiarize CAP powered aircraft pilots with the sport of soaring, using a CAP glider.

She and her instructor, Lt. Col. Eston Hupp, made a couple of flights in a 2-seat Blanik L-23 glider at the Soaring Club of Houston airfield in Waller County, Texas.

How did she like soaring? "It was a lot of fun. My instructor was very knowledgeable and it was a great experience," she said. Then she added, "It was much more peaceful, relaxing, and quiet than powered flight. The glider was much lighter and handled much differently."

At the end of the day, after some reflection, Rovner said, "I was a little uneasy at first, but I quickly realized that the glider has much different aerodynamic characteristics than a powered aircraft. It was a pretty cool feeling to be able to climb just by manipulating the glider."

Lt. Col. Hupp's parting words to his student were, "You could make the transition to soaring with very little effort, and hopefully all your future landings without an engine will be done in a glider." They both smiled.

The Soaring Club of Houston is a CAP affiliate support group, and the home for the CAP Blanik L-23 glider. This club also hosts the annual Cadet Glider Encampment, where cadets are given glider orientation flights. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron commander Capt. Michael E. Eckert discusses the monthly newsletter with, Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel. (Photo: 1st Lt. Daniel C. Andraka, CAP)

New Mexico Squadron's Newsletter Earns Balsem Award

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Aug. 23-25, at the National Boards and Annual Conference in Baltimore, *High Flight*, the official newsletter of Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, was announced as having been selected for a Civil Air Patrol's Maj. Howell C. Balsem Exceptional Achievement Award (Certificate of Merit) for outstanding newsletter, in the name of its editor, Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel.

The Balsem Award is presented to public affairs officers nationwide in recognition of their efforts in various categories. One participant in each category receives the Balsem Award itself for first place, with Awards of Excellence going to second-place finishers and Certificates of Merit to those who finish third.

The Balsem Awards program is administered by the National PAO and the Deputy Director, NHQ/PA, who form a committee of judges who are public relations practitioners with expertise in the various categories, but who are not associated with Civil Air Patrol. Every PAO/PIO volunteer member of CAP is permitted to enter the competition.

At the judges' discretion, depending on the quality and quantity of submission, any category may be declared vacant or; conversely, more than one individual may be named a recipient of each award.

For Tourtel, this is his second Balsem Award. While assigned as public affairs officer at Eagle Cadet Squadron, he was the recipient of the 2007 Balsem Award (honorable mention) for his newsletter, *The Eagle Flyer*.

This year, out of 90 Balsem Award entries received, 11 Balsem awards were presented, along with 20 Awards of Excellence and 16 Certificates of Merit. 🇺🇸



Top: A Piper PA 28 similar to the lost aircraft. *(Image is in the public domain)*

Arizona Wing Assists with Missing Aircraft Search

by Capt. Cindy Beck, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On Sept. 14, 2012, the Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) began flying sorties at 4 a.m. in an effort to locate a missing training aircraft operated by CAE Oxford Aviation Academy out of Falcon Field in Mesa, Ariz. Approximately 45 Arizona Wing members representing 10 units were on hand to support the search.

The CAP Incident Command Post at Falcon Field moved quickly to add a Liaison Team with the Sheriff's Forward Command Post and a Staging Base team to assist in locating the aircraft.

After five CAP aircraft had flown 15 sorties, an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) helicopter was called in to take a closer look at a potential accident site west of Payson, Ariz.

Further investigation confirmed the wreckage to be that of the missing airplane. A final CAP sortie was then flown to photograph the site. Local authorities on site determined that there had been no survivors

During the search, CAP Lt. Col. Bob Ditch said that the search aircraft overflying the area had been unable to pick up any signals from an emergency locator beacon. The search was further complicated by rough terrain and dense foliage. To increase the search efforts' effectiveness, CAP used cell phone forensics and radar analysis to isolate potential search areas. 🇺🇸



Top: Hours after appearing on the Terry Q. Sayre radio talk show, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark E. Smith presides over the September wing staff meeting. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel)

Top New Mexico Officers on Albuquerque Talk Radio

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Sept. 8, 2012, New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith and New Mexico Wing Liaison Coordinator Lt. Col. Sharon M. Lane appeared on Terry Q. Sayre's Saturday morning radio talk show on station KKOZ, 770 AM.

Smith gave an overview of what CAP does, as the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. As the wing commander, he is CAP's chief corporate officer for the state of New Mexico, overseeing any statewide obligations for the wing. He also touched on CAP's non-profit status as a 501(c)3 corporation.

Lane spoke about the cadet program, and how she joined CAP at her son's request. Her son's squadron commander told her that their deputy commander for cadets was leaving, and would she be interested in joining. Lane said yes, starting a long and storied CAP career. "You never know when you'll make a decision that will change your entire life forever," she said.

Both Sayre and her traffic reporter, Dangerous Dan – who used to be an air traffic controller –, were intrigued with CAP's wartime mission, especially when they heard about how CAP's volunteer pilots sank two U-boats during World War II. Sayre asked, "So what kind of qualifications do you need to join?" Smith replied, "We have people in the wing from all walks of life."

Smith touched on CAP's three primary missions – emergency services, aerospace education and the cadet program – and how CAP has accomplished those missions over the years. He mentioned the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and how CAP volunteers worked for 118 days, flying over 20,000 hours, to help map the oil spill's progress, at a lower cost than any other organizations could have done it.

"None of us gets paid for what we do," said Smith. "All of our members have a spirit of service, and that's what we're all about." 🇺🇸



Top: Navy Nurse Lt. J.G. Louise Johnson recalls her experiences during WW II caring for American casualties (*Photos: 1st. Lt. Carol Collins*)

Arkansas Wing Reaches Out to Veterans

by 1st. Lt. Carol Collins, CAP, Arkansas Wing

TEXARKANA, Ark. – When Amy Goodroe, Social Communicator for Cowhorn Creek Retirement Estates, called the 95th Composite Squadron asking for Civil Air Patrol participation in a veterans' support program for their residence, the squadron readily accepted the chance to support the American veterans who live there.

On Aug. 17, 2012, Maj. John Gender and 1st. Lt. Carol Collins made a presentation to the residents, explaining how Civil Air Patrol helps the community and conducts its congressionally mandated missions. The residents saw CAP pictures of events in which CAP takes part – and it continues to do – having started even before America joined the Allies in their fight in World War II. This experience brought out memories and stories from the veterans living at the Cowhorn Creek Estates.

Lt. J.G. Louise Johnson was a Navy nurse from 1944 to 1947 in Newport, R.I. and in New Orleans. She recalled the experiences of those years as if they had just happened

Chief Mechanics Mate James Riddle served from 1937 to 1957, and fought in the South Pacific. Maj. George Burnes, USAF, served from 1943 to 1969 first in England, and was a POW for 2 years in North Korea. Tom Neely served in the Army from 1971 to 1973 in Sasson, Japan.

Robert Howard Sedgass served in the 101st Airborne Division – the “Screaming Eagles” – in Europe. He was wounded in Bastogne in 1944 after a glider drop, and then fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. After the war, he was one of the characters portrayed in the movie “A Bridge Too Far.” During this desperate winter battle, he remembers hearing through the grapevine about the American commander, Brig. Gen. Antony McAuliffe, giving a one-word answer to the German general’s request for the Americans to surrender, “Nuts!” That American spirit came alive in spite of the odds against them, and they kept going, giving it all they had. He also remembers the sound of tanks – Gen. George Patton’s tanks – a full day before they arrived on Dec. 26, 1945. They called his arrival “The Christmas Miracle.”

Civil Air Patrol members who have made the effort to make visits such as this have been blessed by meeting many service members of old and hearing their recollection, an experience repeated every time CAP members meet America’s military heroes.

During November, 2012, the squadron has committed to show CAP support by going into every nursing home in the area in observance of the “Honor our Veterans” month, an activity organized through the Hospice of Texarkana program. It consists in “Pinning” veterans for their service. Visiting CAP members give all veterans a certificate of service and pin an American Flag on them.

Civil Air Patrol members were thankful for the invitation and for having been allowed to do this for the Cowhorn Creek Retirement Estates residents. It will be followed by the November “pinning” ceremony at Cowhorn Creek and also at all the nursing homes in Texarkana. 🇺🇸

Below: American veteran residents at the Cowhorn Creek Retirement Estates during the CAP presentation.





Oklahoma Wing Cadets Honor War Hero

by 1st Lt Phyllis Howard, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

OKLAHOMA CITY – On Sept. 9, 2012, the Oklahoma City Composite Squadron Color Guard, composed of Cadet Master Sgt. Taija Wilson, Cadet Capt. Philip Whitlinger, Cadet Capt. Valerie Powell, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Justin Davis (photo above), presented the colors at a picnic held at the Manuel Perez, Jr. Park named in honor of Army Private First Class Manuel Perez, an Oklahoma-born hero and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The picnic kicked off an initiative to restore the park, situated in the city's south side.

Speakers at the event included Cruz Cardenas, the only surviving local relative of Manuel Perez, Jr. Other speakers included Oklahoma City Councilman Pete White, Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Program Director Wendell Whisenhunt, and David Puente. Oklahoma County Commissioner Brian Maughan also attended. Several World War II veterans were present at the event, making it a very special occasion for all. An unannounced visit by Congressman James Lankford was enjoyed by those attending.

Perez, a Mexican-American, was born in Oklahoma City on March 3, 1923 and first lived in the neighborhood surrounding the park. While still a young boy, his family moved to Chicago where he lived until joining the Army in World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in the Philippines on Feb. 13, 1945, as a member of Company A, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division.

On that day in 1945, Private First Class Perez led attacks that neutralized 11 Japanese pillboxes that had been stopping his unit's advance towards a valuable objective, single-handedly killing 11 enemy combatants. Perez was mortally wounded and died as a result of his injuries suffered at the engagement. His family was presented the decoration posthumously. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Arizona Wing Commander Col. Brian Ready, Lt. Col. Robert L. Ditch, and SWR Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe at the presentation of Ditch's Exceptional Service Award. (Photo: Capt. Cindy Beck)

AZ Wing Member Honored by the State of Arizona

by Capt. Cindy Beck, CAP, Arizona Wing

CHANDLER, Ariz. – On July 25, 2012, Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Robert L. Ditch, a member of Arizona Wing, received the 2012 Excellence in Emergency Management Award from the Arizona Emergency Services Association (AESA) that was presented at the AESA Annual Conference held in Chandler, Arizona (an event he was unable to attend, as he was traveling at the time).

Ditch, a Certified Emergency Manager, serves as the Emergency Services Director/Incident Commander for the Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. His efforts were instrumental in Arizona Wing becoming part of the Arizona Department of Emergency Management statewide notification system, and he has also led many life-saving missions during his service to Arizona.

Wendy Smith-Reeve, President of the Arizona Emergency Services Association, had the following to say when she announced Ditch's award, "Arizona has been the fortunate recipient of your tireless service as the Director of Emergency Services with the Arizona Civil Air Patrol. Your hard work, dedication and good service are recognized not only within our state but also across the nation. Your spirit of volunteerism and devotion to the emergency management profession is admirable."

Arizona Wing also honored Lt. Col. Ditch with the 2012 Senior Member of the Year Award, and presented him with an Exceptional Service Award. 🇺🇸



LA CAP MISSION# 12-C-7291 SORTIE# A002 Date: 22AUG11 TOT: 1823Z Dir=N Lat=N30 03.93' Lon=W091 51.34' Alt=1200m MSL

Louisiana Wing Photographs Assumption Parish Sinkhole

by Capt. John C. Wigginton, III, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La. – On Aug. 20, 2012, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) requested that the Louisiana Wing, Civil Air Patrol, provide aerial Imagery of a large sinkhole that had developed in Assumption Parish. Accordingly, Louisiana Wing aircrews are providing low altitude (1,200 feet) progressive photographs that are used to monitor the size and other features of the growing sinkhole.

GOHSEP officials said that CAP images are of excellent quality and beyond their expectation.

Flights were originally scheduled for once every five to seven days. That frequency has been adjusted and now depends on observed changes in the sinkhole. Louisiana Wing personnel and aircraft are prepared to conduct daily flights if events warrant closer observation.

The mission was expected to last from four to six weeks; however, GOHSEP has requested that the CAP flights be extended for another six to eight weeks.

CAP has highly trained pilots that specialize in high- and low-altitude flight maneuvers for aerial imagery as well as search and rescue missions. On these missions, airborne photographers are included in the aircrews. They have been trained and have practiced on simulated damage assessment and search and rescue missions. Many aircrew members have also gathered experience through their participation in real-world actual missions. 🇺🇸



Top: Cadet 2nd Lt. Nathan Coleman is presented the General Billy Mitchell Award by State Representative Larry Phillips.
(Photo: 2nd Lt. Michael Bernier)

Texoma Composite Squadron Cadet Achieves Milestone Award

by 2nd Lt. Michael Bernier, CAP, Texas Wing

DENISON, Texas – On July 30, 2012, a Texoma Composite Squadron cadet received an award in recognition of his achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. The ceremony was held in the squadron's facilities in Denison at the North Texas Regional Airport.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Nathan Coleman of Whitewright was presented the General Billy Mitchell Award, named in honor of the aviation pioneer who, after World War I, advocated the creation of an independent air force for the United States. The Mitchell award is the second milestone in the CAP Cadet Program, and is awarded to cadets who have completed 8 of the 16 achievements in the program.

This award also marks a cadet's transition from cadet non-commissioned officer status into the cadet officer ranks. Approximately 15 percent of all CAP cadets nationwide achieve this award.

On hand to present the award was Texas State Representative Larry Phillips, who has represented District 62 (Grayson and Fannin Counties) in the Texas Legislature since 2003.

In his remarks, Rep. Phillips commended Cadet Coleman and highlighted the importance of the CAP Cadet Program, "I want to thank each of you cadets for your service and your dedication. I know it takes time and effort to do this, and I'm certainly proud of you," he said.

"I thank also the adult members and sponsors who are involved in these young people's lives and are making a difference. You never know when you're going to be called upon to use the skills you have learned here to support our communities. Again, thank you for being prepared and standing ready to serve," he added.

In addition to the Mitchell award, Rep. Phillips also presented Cadet Coleman with a state resolution recognizing the effort required to earn the award, and congratulating him on his achievement. 🇺🇸

Announcing the Southwest Region Public Affairs Awards Program

Starting with the Jan., 2013 issue of The Fly-By, by directive of Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe, the region will recognize contributions to The Fly-By as follows:

1. A SWR **CAP Achievement Award** for article publication on three different issues of The Fly-By. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.
2. A SWR **Commander's Commendation Award** for article publication on an additional six different issues. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.

Region will issue the certificate and send it to the winner's unit at the first available opportunity. The award certificate will be presented at the first available opportunity.

How to Make Submissions Suitable for Publication

Since The Fly-By is posted on the SWR website, it is an external communication. Therefore, as required by CAPR 190-1, Sec. 7.b.(7), articles must be written in Associated Press Style. If a submission that is not in AP Style is selected for publication, it will be edited to this standard. (NHQ/PA has been using AP Style for all external communications since 2005.)

AP Style is defined in the Associated Press Stylebook (available at www.ap.org). For a brief summary, please see "Associated Press Style in a Nutshell," overleaf.

"Article" is defined as a narrative that:

- Is written in AP Style;
- Answers the questions Who, What, When, Where, and Why, and preferably also How;
- Has one or more quotes from participants, with attribution;
- Has two or more digital photos attached (not embedded in the text), with appropriate cutlines (photo captions). If the article is submitted without digital photos and it is published, it will count as a half-credit. For full credit, it must have accompanying photos

General advice on writing a good article

- Get all facts right, stick to the facts, and avoid hearsay.
- Take good digital photos.
 - Do not use digital zoom, or else your photos will lack good focus and definition;
 - Take "action shots" of people doing something interesting that is material to the article;
 - Make sure everyone is in the correct uniform.
 - **Note:** Good photos are essential to add immediacy and flavor to the story.
- Get good quotes.
 - Ask participants for their opinion;
 - Get full grade, name, position title and unit of assignment for each quote.
 - Get the individual's consent to publish the quote as recorded.
 - **Note:** This is how you get to express opinion, and get your readers to share the experience you are writing about.
- Write in good, idiomatic, unadorned English.
 - Do not "pad" your sentences, such as saying "because of the fact that" when "because" will do;
 - Avoid trite expressions, such as "it goes without saying" – if it does, don't say it;
 - Avoid colloquial expressions;
 - Do not write in acronyms – always define the first instance, such as "Federal Aviation Administration" before you use FAA;
 - No nicknames – unless famous, such as "Ike" for Pres. Dwight E. Eisenhower. 🇺🇸

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and insert two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person's permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person's grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as "kid."
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use "boy," "girl" or "child" but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use "their" for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, "the cadet took their meal."
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or higher ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. The Navy is the only service that has the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the good rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at www.ap.org – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖